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The Challenge of the Future: A Study in American Foreign Policy. By ROLAND G. USHER. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1916. Pp. xxi, 350.)

This volume, like its predecessors, *Pan-Germanism and Pan-Americanism*, presents a picture in bold contrasts of black and white, while, as the author frankly states in the preface, "a true picture would be a rather confused blur of different shades of gray, which melt into one another with here a shadow and there a streak of white." He justifies his method of treatment on the plea of clearness and emphasis. In the present volume, as in *Pan-Germanism*, the author displays great facility in gathering together the somewhat nebulous ideas that are floating around in the popular mind and giving them definite form and concrete expression. He possesses a brilliancy and lucidity of style which carries the reader forward with great ease and rapidity. Every striking idea or form of expression that comes to the author is set down in utter disregard of its conflict with other ideas and statements already set forth. The task of reconciling them would involve the ruthless sacrifice of high-sounding phrases and glittering generalities, and such a sacrifice the author is apparently incapable of making. He inserts a footnote occasionally where the inconsistency is too obvious to tell the reader that the one statement was made on one hypothesis and the other on another. To what he calls "academic accuracy" he has not thought it worth while to make any concessions.

Chapter 10 of *Pan-Germanism* filled students of American diplomacy with amazement and destroyed all faith in the trustworthiness of the secret sources of information on which Professor Usher so often intimates that his conclusions are based. In that chapter he claimed that the United States, England, and France had in 1897 arrived at a secret agreement which amounted to an alliance. Senator Lodge was quick to point out the absurdity of such a statement. In his volume on *Pan-Americanism* Professor Usher's conclusions were in brief that we would either have to abandon the Monroe Doctrine and other cherished policies or fight the victor in the European War. He therefore solemnly warned the American people to forego their present aims and ambitions or to prepare for the inevitable conflict. His readers were left in uncertainty as to which course he favored.

In the present volume he advances a new solution. He opposes armaments on the ground that it is impossible to distinguish between defensive and offensive preparations, and he advocates four lines of

action: (1) an alliance with England (ignoring his earlier assertion that such an alliance had existed since 1897), (2) the abandonment of the Pacific to Japan, (3) the renunciation of the Monroe Doctrine so far as South America is concerned, and (4) the immediate policing and ultimate annexation of Mexico, Central America, and portions of the West Indies. This, we are solemnly informed on the cover, is "the first attempt to formulate an American foreign policy that will meet new conditions and save us the burden of huge armaments!"

JOHN H. LATANÉ.

A History of England and the British Empire. In four volumes. Vol. IV, 1802-1914. By ARTHUR D. INNES. (New York: The Macmillan Company. Pp. xxxv, 604. With maps.

Among general histories Mr. Innes's book is likely to be of singular usefulness because he has so fully implemented his title *A History of England and the British Empire*. The period comprised is from the peace of Amiens to the beginning of the war. The new era in British colonial history—the era that began with the American Revolution—falls in the main within this period; and there can scarcely be a development of importance in the history of the oversea dominions, or of India that has not adequate treatment in Mr. Innes's pages. There are aspects of colonial development where a little more detail might seem desirable. It might have been well, for instance, if there had been some amplification of what responsible government has meant for Canada; of what Canada has gained in constitutional power and liberty in the three-quarters of a century since the united provinces of Ontario and Quebec secured responsible government through the liberality with which Sydenham and Elgin, as governor-generals, interpreted the act of union of 1840. But when a reader feels a desire for a little amplification here and there, he also realizes that Mr. Innes is writing the history of England as well as of the oversea dominions, the crown colonies and India since 1802. He appreciates that while no distinction of style characterizes Mr. Innes's work, and while occasional errors in dates and statements have crept into the book, the history is well-planned and well-balanced. Going through it from cover to cover, if the volume were kept within its present limits—562 pages—the only chapters that could be eliminated without loss to make room for any amplifications, are those assigned to literature. The attention that literature receives in any general history is seldom satisfactory. Literary surveys even in the best of general histories are scrappy and incom-